

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00225 301315Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SCS-03 OPR-02 /031 W
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R 291800Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5046

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0225

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL 31 JAN 77)

TAGS: PFOR CASC MR FR

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: IS ZOUERATE SAFE FOR US CITIZENS?

REF: STATE 20448

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUTIER IS FLYING UP TO ZOUERATE THIS MORNING FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAY VISIT WITH THE 1102 FRENCH NATIONALS WHO LIVE AND WORK IN IRON MINING AREA. GAUTIER DESCRIBED TRIP AS ONE OF PERIODIC VISITS HE AND FRENCH CONSUL IN NOUADHIBOU MAKE TO ZOUERATE, AND DECLARED THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR FEELING OF CONCERN OR SENSE OF CRISIS PROMPTING TRIP. HE VOLUNTEERED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS VISITS TO CONCENTRATIONS OF FRENCH NATIONALS IN NORTH HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE FREQUENT OF LATE BECAUSE OF SAHARA SITUATION. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED HE WOULD BE TAKING A HARD LOOK AT SECURITY SITUATION IN AND AROUND ZOUERATE, MAKING CERTAIN THAT EVACUATION PLANNING IS UP TO DATE, PULSING COMMUNITY MORALE, AND EXAMINING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP NEED OR DESIRABILITY OF THINNING OUT FRENCH POPULATION.

2. I PLAN TO SEEK DETAILED DEBRIEFING ON ZOUERATE SECURITY SITUATION AS SOON AS AMBASSADOR RETURNS. WITH SOME HARD INFORMATION IN HAND, WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ANSWER US BUSINESS INQUIRIES, AND PERHAPS BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A SOMEWHAT MORE UPBEAT SITREP FOR THE NEAR AS OPPOSED TO THE FAR NORTH.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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